COMMITTEES: APPROPRIATIONS BANKING, HOUSING, AND **URBAN AFFAIRS** BUDGET **ENVIRONMENT** AND PUBLIC WORKS

United States Senate

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July 29, 1997

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Lester Snow, Executive Director **CALFED** 1416 9th Street, Room 1155 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

This letter is to inform you of my strong support for the San Joaquin River Parkway Land Acquisition Program grant application under Category III of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. This \$5 million block grant request has been made jointly by the San Joaquin River Conservancy, the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Department of Fish and Game, the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust and the Trust for Public Land. I understand further that funds would be used to acquire full fee title, conservation easements, and agricultural easements within the historic floodplain from willing sellers.

These funds would help leverage monies from other public and private sources to continue the establishment of the 22-mile San Joaquin River Parkway. The San Joaquin River Conservancy will ultimately hold title of these properties.

If approved, this grant would accelerate efforts to preserve and restore an important natural and cultural resource near one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in California. I am impressed by the wide range of support that the effort to preserve and restore the San Joaquin River enjoys within the communities of Fresno and Clovis, and in Madera County. I urge that you give this request your most serious and careful consideration.

Should you or your staff have questions regarding this matter, please contact Tom Bohigian, my Northern California Director, at 209-497-5109. Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

United States Senator

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